



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OSAGE INDIAN MURDERS

PART 8 OF 19

BUFILE NUMBER: 62-5033

FILE DESCRIPTION

BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT Osage Indian Murders

FILE NO. 62-5033

SECTION NO. 8

SERIALS - 246 -

Pages 1264 - 1486
plus
1 cover page

Total (224)

Cover page

From _____
Assistant Attorney General Luhring

Official indicated below by check mark

		Memorandum
1	Attorney General	<p><i>Think perhaps you had better keep these with your files</i></p> <p>NOV 1 3 1925</p> <p><i>Mr. Hoover</i></p> <p>62-5033-246</p> <p>BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION NOV 12 1925 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE</p> <p>Dist. Two FILED</p>
2	Solicitor General	
3	Assistant to Attorney General	
4	Assistant Attorney General Galloway	
5	Assistant Attorney General Marshall	
6	Assistant Attorney General Willebrandt	
7	Assistant Attorney General Letts	
8	Assistant Attorney General Parmenter	
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10	Mr. White	
11	Mr. Finch	
12	Mr. Baldwin	
13	Mr. Sornborger	
14	Mr. Robb	
15	Mr. Ridgely	
16	Mr. Parrish	
17	Mr. Wixson	
18	Mr. Fisher	
19	Mr. Ramsey	
20	Miss Linton	
21	Mr. Chase	
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62-5033-246

HENRY ROAN MURDER CASE

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LIST OF WITNESSES
ELDER ROAN CASE.

SHEET NO.

NAME

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MALE
Ashbrook, O. E.
Ashbrook, Mrs. Lila
Bunch, Mrs. Mary
Bunch, Roy
Crossland, G. M.
Gemstock, A. W.
Cornett, Henry
Copeland, V. E.
Dearnold, Verna
Embry, John
Fletcher, Mamie
Fincher, Ed
Gress, Dick
Gustafson, John A.
Gray, Earl
Grinstead, E. E.
Haines, Willie
Hall, E. F.

Hart, Jack
Munsaker, A. C.
Justis, J. A.
Lake, H. W.
Moran, John
McClure, Maggie Clark
McLean, John
McLabb, Harry
Owens, E. Guy
Prentiss, Dr. E. B.
Parker, Bob
Parker, Jim
Reynolds, F. W.
Rhodes, Jim
Robinson, W. C.
Sec'y., Capitol Life Ins Co.
Shoun, Dr. J. C.
Spurgin, W. G.
Stodder, Dick
Starr, Mary
Tulk, Sam
Wilson, H. E.
Weiss, T. F.

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NAME, ADDRESS AND
KIND OF WITNESS

BOB PARKER,

Fairfax, Okla.

Material

DEVELOPMENTS FROM INVESTIGATION

Can testify that on February 6, 1923, he received word that an automobile was standing at the side of the road about three miles northwest of Fairfax in the direction of Burbank; that he suspected it was a whiskey car, and, in company with Jim Rhoades, went out to investigate; that they found the car standing about two hundred yards from the back road between Fairfax and Burbank, in a rocky swale, down which a dim trail ran; that the car was Henry Roan's touring car, had all the curtains up, and was pointing North and a little east; that Henry Roan's dead body was lying on the front seat, with a bullet hole through the head, that the bullet showed to have entered just back of the left ear, and emerged just over the right eye, breaking the windshield glass; that this broken glass was strewn for about twenty feet back along the car tracks and some pieces were still lying on the hood of the car; that Roan was lying on the front seat with his foot just off the pedals and his head, with his cap under it, resting on the right edge of the seat; that the position of the body plainly indicated that Roan had been driving when shot from the left rear; that the back curtain was shattered partly at the

REPORT
REFERENCE

Page 665
Par. 2

REMARKS

Subpoena and question
fully before using
before Grand Jury.

1.
BOB PARKER,
(continued)

2.

top; that there was not much blood but some blood had dripped from the wound in the head just inside of the right front door, and some had dripped just outside the front on the right side, and had been blown and lodged along the car on that side back from the front door, showing that a north wind had been blowing at the time and that Roan had fallen as they found him; and killed at that spot; that he and Jim Rhodes got the body back to Fairfax, where Drs. H. B. Prentiss and J. G. Shoun performed an autopsy on it; that they, Bob Parker and Jim Rhodes, knew Henry Roan well in his lifetime and know positively that it was Henry Roan's body they found.

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JIM HUGHES,
Fairfax, Okla.

2.

Can testify that on February 6, 1923, he, in company with Bob Parker, went out to investigate what they thought was a whiskey car; that they found the car standing about two hundred yards from the back road between Fairfax and Burbank, in a rocky swale, down which a dim trail ran; that the car was Henry Roan's touring car, had all the curtains up, and was pointing north and a little to the east; that Henry Roan's dead body was lying on the front seat, with a bullet hole through the head; that the bullet showed to have entered just back of the left ear, and emerged just over the right eye, breaking the windshield glass; that this broken glass was strewn for about twenty feet back along the car tracks and some pieces were still lying on the hood of the car; that Roan was lying on the front seat with his foot just off the pedals, and his head, with his cap under it, was resting on the right edge of the seat; that the position of the body plainly indicated that Roan had been driving when shot from the left rear; that the back curtain was unsnapped partly at the top; that there was not much blood, but some blood had dripped from the wound in the head just inside the right front door, and some had dripped just outside the front on the right side, and had been blown and lodged along that side back of the front door, showing that a north wind had been blowing at the time, and that Roan had fallen where they found him, and killed it that

3.

Page 666
Par. 2

4.

Subpoena and question
filed before using
before Grand Jury.

JIM RHODES

(continued)

1.

2.

spot; that he and Bob Parker got the body back to Fairfax, where Drs. H. B. Prentiss and J. G. Shoun performed an autopsy on it; that they, Jim Rhodes and Bob Parker, knew Henry Roan well in his lifetime and know positively that it was Henry Roan's body they found.

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DR. H. B. PRENTISS,
Fairfax, Okla.

Material.

2.

Can testify that he and Dr. J. G. Shoun performed the autopsy on the body of Henry Roan, and that the wound was as described by Bob Parker and Jim Rhodes, and that said wound caused the death of Henry Roan; that the body showed to have been dead some ten days, as it had been frozen stiff at first, but had begun to thaw and decompose at the time it was found; that the weather had been very cold from January 26 to February 3 or 4, 1923, at which time a warm spell set in, so that Roan must have been killed about January 26; that they, Drs. Prentiss and Shoun, both knew Henry Roan well in his lifetime, and know it was Roan's body that was found, as no changes had occurred in the body to hinder an easy identification.

3.

Page 665
Par. last

Subjoms and question
fully before using
before Grand Jury.

From _____
Assistant Attorney General Lühring

Official indicated below by check mark

- 1 Attorney General _____
- 2 Solicitor General _____
- 3 Assistant to Attorney General _____
- 4 Assistant Attorney General Galloway _____
- 5 Assistant Attorney General Marshall _____
- 6 Assistant Attorney General Willebrandt _____
- 7 Assistant Attorney General Letts _____
- 8 Assistant Attorney General Parmenter _____
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- 10 Mr. White _____
- 11 Mr. Finch _____
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- 13 Mr. Somborger _____
- 14 Mr. Robb _____
- 15 Mr. Ridgely _____
- 16 Mr. Parrish _____
- 17 Mr. Wixson _____
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Memorandum

*These papers
you had better
keep these with
your files*

NOV 1 3 1925

62-5033-246
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
NOV 12 1925
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Div. Two FILED

62-5033

DR. J. O. SHOWN,
Fairfax, Okla.

Material.

2.

Can testify that he and Dr. H. B. Prentiss performed the autopsy on the body of Henry Roan, and that the wound was as described by Bob Parker and Jim Rhodes, and that said wound caused the death of Henry Roan; that the body showed to have been dead some ten days, as it had been frozen stiff at first, but had begun to thaw and decompose at the time it was found; that the weather had been very cold from January 26 to February 3 or 4, 1923, at which time a warm spell set in, so that Roan must have been killed about January 26; that they, Drs. Shoun and Prentiss, both knew Henry Roan well in his lifetime, and know it was Roan's body that was found, as no changes had occurred in the body to hinder an easy identification.

3.

Page 665
Par. last

4.

Subpoena and question
tried before using
before Grand Jury.

1.
H. E. WILSON,
Fairfax, Okla.

Material.

2.

Was coroner who conducted inquest over
body of Henry Roan. Has record of tes-
timony

3.

Page 616
Par. last.

See poena duces tecum.
Also shown as witness
in W. E. Smith and
Anna Brown cases.

1.
ED FICHER,
W. E. COPELAND,
HARRY MONABB,
W. G. ROBINSON,
EARL GRAY,
W. G. SPURGIN,

All at Fairfax, Ok.

2.

These witnesses sat as a Coroner's Jury, and all are residents of Fairfax, and were at the time of the Roan murder. They are likely in possession of detail information, which they have failed to divulge heretofore on account of fear of bodily harm being done them by "Bill" Hale and allies.

3.

Page 621.

Subj. and question
full before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

A. C. HENSACKER,
Fairfax, Okla.

2.

This witness was the undertaker who handled the remains of Henry Roan, accompanied Coroner's jury to the scene where body was found, and assisted in detailed examinations of wounds, etc., and issued death certificate, showing cause of death and identification of body.

3.

Page 614,
par 6.
Page 613,
last par.

Subpoena and question
fully before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

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MRS. MARY BUNCH,
Fairfax, Okla.

Material

2.

Can testify that last time she saw her husband, Henry Roan, alive was on Jan. 24 or 25, 1923; that he left with his car in which his body was later found, in the forenoon of that date, and she never saw him alive again; that she identified his body when it was brought into Fairfax on March 6, 1923, and is sure it was his body.

She stated to Agents Weiss and Burger that a short time before her husband disappeared, and later found shot, Bill Hale came to their home at a time when she, her husband, and children were all ready to go to the county try for dinner, and called her husband out and talked with him for some time, and her husband then told her to go ahead to dinner, that he was going with Bill Hale; that she went on to dinner in the country and returned late that day, and found her husband home drunk and he told her about Hale taking him to some bootlegger who had an old Dodge car with booze in it; that her husband told her this bootlegger had said he wanted to meet her, and her husband prevailed upon her to make the trip to see said bootlegger, but she never made the trip with him, and never met the bootlegger.

3.

Page 664
Par. 2

Page 384
Par. last

4.

Subpoena and question
return before using
before Grand Jury.

E. F. HALL,
% Mutual Life Ins Co.
Tulsa, Okla.

2.

It is alleged by H. J. Lake that this witness stated to him that about two years ago that his agent John McLean remarked to him, Hall, that he, McLean, had to draw up a note showing indebtedness to a man so that he could write an Indian a policy for \$25,000; that after Henry Roan was murdered McLean told Hall that Roan was the Indian for whom the note was drawn up for signature, and whom he tried to write for \$25,000 but the application was rejected by the Mutual Life Ins. Co.

3.

Page 605,
2nd par.

4.

submitted in question
fully before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

E. GUY OWENS,

Mutual Life Ins Co.
Colecord Building,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

2.

This witness is district manager for the Mutual Life Ins. Co., and is in possession of records concerning application and re-jection of a \$25,000 policy on life of Henry Roan, payable to Bill Hale.

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Subpoena duces tecum.

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JOHN McLEAN,

Mutual Life Ins Co.
Los Angeles, Calif.

2.

This witness, while an Agent for the Mutual Life Ins. Co., during the early part of 1921, made application for insurance to his company on the life of Henry Roan, in favor of M. K. Hale, in the sum of \$25,000, which was rejected.

Hale is alleged to have stated to H. W. Lake that he approached McLean to write a policy on Roan's life for \$25,000 payable to Hale as creditor; that McLean demurred on the ground that it was necessary for Roan to actually owe Hale before he could get the policy; that after discussion, McLean filled out a note with pen and ink for \$25,000 and gave it to Hale for him to obtain Roan's signature; that when the signed note was shown to McLean, that McLean wrote an application on Roan's life in favor of Hale, this application being later rejected.

E. F. Hall stated to H. W. Lake that this witness, McLean, remarked to him, Hall, that he drew up a note showing an Indian's indebtedness to a man, so that he could write a policy on this Indian in favor of the man, for \$25,000; that after Henry Roan was murdered, McLean told Hall that Roan was that Indian.

3.

Page 663,
1st par.

Page 610,
6th par.

4.

Subj. called in question
full report's using be-
Gru. jury.

1.

WYLLIE HAINES,

Hominy, Okla.

Material.

2.

Alleged to have made investigation of death of Henry Roan for Capitol Life Insurance Co. See reports made by him now in possession of Capitol Life Insurance Co., Denver, Colo.

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Subpoena and question orally before using before Grand Jury.

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T. W. REYNOLDS,
% Capital Life Ins.
Company,
Oklahoma City, Okla.

This witness, while an Agent for the Capital Life Insurance Company, at the request of J. K. "Bill" Hale, wrote an application for a \$25,000 life insurance policy on Henry Roan, payable to Hale, and assisted Hale in passing this application on a physical examination for the policy, knowing at the time that this applicant, Roan, had been rejected by the Mutual Life Ins. Co., on a similar application made by Hale, due to Roan's physical unfitness. This witness admitted to H. J. Lake that Bill Hale had paid the premiums in cash when due on this policy to him, Reynolds.

Page 618,
2nd par.

Subject's question
fully before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

Investigation indicates
that this witness will
be unwilling, on account
of his connection with
Hale in fraudulently ob-
taining this policy on
Roan's life. Further
investigation may develop
that this witness is a
co-conspirator with Hale
in the death of Roan.

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1.

General Agent of
Secretary of Capitol
Life Insurance Co.,
Denver, Colo.

(Continued)

2.

which would have resulted in the rejection
of the application for the insurance by
Hale.

Also has custody of reports made by Wylie
Haines on his investigation of the death
of Roan.

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1.

General Agent or
Secretary of Capital
Life Insurance Co.,
Denver, Colo.

Material.

2.

Has records to show that Hale secured policy on life of Roan through collusion with one Mr. Green, then an agent for said company; that the company refused payment on the policy at Roan's death on grounds of fraud, misrepresentation, and collusion between said Green and W. K. Hale; that Hale then sued on the policy, which suit is now pending; that Hale claimed, as the basis for his insurable interest in Henry Roan's life, that Roan owed Hale, at Roan's death, on an open, unsecured account, unverified and unwitnessed, approximately the sum of \$25,000.; that Hale's deposition avers that at one time Hale sold and delivered to Henry Roan one hundred head of cattle at \$130. per head; that no writing of any kind was made or signed to evidence this deal, and no one was present to witness either the delivery or the agreement. Said Life Insurance Co. made an exhaustive investigation into this, and can furnish names of doctors at Fairfax who represented the company at that time, and show that Hale took Roan to Pawnee to other doctors. to get the examination of Roan by, and that the regular doctors for the company would have certainly shown the true facts regarding Roan's physical condition, aside attempts, domestic trouble, etc.,

3.

Page 663
Par. 2.

4.

Subpoena duces tecum.
Question fully before
jury.

1.

H. W. LARK,
Care Lake Service
Bureau,
Times Building,
St. Louis, Mo.

2.

Made exhaustive investigation of death
of Roan for the Capital Life Insurance
Co., Denver, Colo. relative to the in-
surance policy held by W. K. Hale with
that company on life of Roan.

3.

Pages 537
to 640.

4.

Subpoena and question
fully before using
before Grand Jury.

Material.

1.

VERNA DeARNOLD.

Fairfax, Okla.

Material.

2.

Took testimony of W. K. Hale in suit of
W. K. Hale vs. Capitol Life Insurance
Co. on the \$25,000. policy held by Hale
on life of Henry Roan.

3.

Page 567
to 596.

4.

Subpoena for Grand Jury.

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4.
Subpoena and question
duces

3.
Page 566
to 596.

2.
Was attorney for the Capitol Life Insurance Co. and examined W. K. Hale in the suit of W. K. Hale vs. Capitol Life Insurance Co., for payment of \$25,000 life insurance policy held by Hale on life of Henry Roan.

JOHN HARRI,
First National Bank
Building,
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Material.

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E. E. GRINSTEAD,
Pawhuska, Okla.

Page 606,
par 5.

This witness, as attorney, is representing W. K. "Bill" Hale in Hale's suit against the Capitol Life Insurance Company to recover a \$25,000 policy payable to Hale on the life of Henry Roan. H. W. Lake alleges that this witness displayed to him, Lake, a note purported to have been made by Roan in favor of Hale, covering an alleged indebtedness of \$25,000, which note Hale used as a basis for securing from the Capital Life Insurance Company a \$25,000 life insurance policy on Roan. This note, Lake alleges, was written on typewriter. Grinstead also stated to Lake that Hale had told him, Grinstead, that on a previous occasion he tried to get insurance on Roan in the Mutual Life Ins. Co., and that company's Agent drew up a note in the sum of \$25,000 for Roan to sign, to be used as a basis for securing the insurance; that Roan was rejected, and that he, Hale, destroyed this note. Lake also alleges that John McLean, Agent for the Mutual Life Ins. Co., told him, Lake, that he, McLean, had drawn up the note with pen and ink. It is alleged by Mr. Lake that this witness, Grinstead, stated to him that he did not believe Roan ever owed Hale any such amount of money and that the whole transaction appeared irregular to him, but that Hale had given him the policy and a bill of exchange and given him the note proving the same with the proceeds of the

4.

... and question
... before using be-
... Grand Jury.

... effort will be made
... Investigators to
... have this witness pro-
... vice note in question
... for inspection.

INDEX TO WITNESSES
ANNA BROWN MURDER CASE

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James, George	10		

1296

L. A. JUSTIS
Pawnee, Okla.

2.

This witness, while Ass't. County Attorney of Osage County, is alleged to have stated in confidence to H. J. Lake that he had been "tipped off" that \$10,000 would be handed to the County Attorney's office to drop investigation and prosecution of the murder of Henry Roan, Osage Indian, also other Indian murders, and that undoubtedly Bill Hale was behind these murders, but definite proof was lacking.

3.

Page 624,
par 4.

4.

Subpoena and question
served before using be-
fore Grand Jury.

A. W. OLSBROOK,
Pawhuska, Okla.

2.

This witness has been very active in the investigation of the Henry Roan murders, as well as other Osage Indian murders. He has the confidence of the Osage Indians and is in possession of many details of material value which should be presented to the Grand Jury.

3.

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last par.

This witness will be subpoenaed on the "Bill" Smith case, and at that time will be thoroughly questioned regarding the Roan case.

4.

1946

HENRY CORNETT
County Jail,
Anadarko, Okla.

2.

Cornett stated to Agent Smith and Informant [redacted] that he knows a man that he will later produce who was present at Oklahoma City with Henry Grammer and Bill Hale, and heard them planning the murder of Henry Roan; that their scheme was to spread propaganda that Roan had divulged information concerning Cornett selling liquor, and that Cornett and Roan were bitter enemies, and then to have Roan murdered on Henry Cornett's place to leave the impression that he had been murdered by Cornett, the truth being that Roan was killed on Cornett's place, but not by Cornett.

3.

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last par.

137D

4.

This witness will be subpoenaed on the J.E. Smith murder, at which time he will be questioned regarding the Roan murder.

Cornett states that on account of criminal cases pending against him by the State, that it would do him untold harm should the Hale influences, prior to the termination of his case, find that he was divulging information to the Government, but predicted that he would at the opportune time, present a witness referred to and cause him to divulge the truth to the Government.

Cornett was residing in Osage County and was closely associated with all known suspects at the time of the murders, and should be in position to ascertain and divulge information of substantial value.